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BOWIE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO PRODUCING AND POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

One Million Sexually Graphic Images Downloaded During 10 Years at Government Employment

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Robert M. Carey, age 52, of Bowie, Maryland pleaded guilty today to producing and possessing child pornography, announced United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein.

According to the statement of facts presented to the court at today's guilty plea, Carey was employed at the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) since 1974. Carey used government computers at his office and home to access child pornography over the Internet. In August 2005, federal law enforcement agents searched Carey's NOAA office and residence, and recovered more than 1,000,000 images of prepubescent girls and girls in their early teens in erotic or sexually graphic poses, which were contained in photo albums, DVDs, CD ROMs and on the computers. Carey admitted to downloading child pornography for approximately 10 years at work.

Among the images recovered during the execution of the search warrant at his residence were images of a family member taken when the minor female was between 8 and 13 years old. Many of these images were sexually explicit, and included photographs taken at Carey's NOAA office. These images also included photographs of sexual acts between Robert Carey and the minor.

Carey was arrested on January 24, 2006 after turning himself in to U.S. officials in Rome, Italy. Carey fled the United States after his December 21, 2005 indictment. Carey was featured on the January 21, 2006 television show "America's Most Wanted."

Under the plea agreement, Carey has agreed to a sentence of 15 years imprisonment, although the Court will decide on the date of sentencing if that sentence is appropriate. Carey also faces a fine of \$250,000 on each of the two counts. Carey remains detained pending his sentencing, which U.S. District Judge Roger W. Titus has scheduled for August 30, 2006 at 9:00 am.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein thanked the U.S. Department of Commerce - Office of Inspector General for its investigative work. Mr. Rosenstein also praised Assistant United States Attorney David I. Salem, who is prosecuting the case.